

**2021 NEPSR
Virtual Pipeline Safety Seminar
April 27, 2021**

**Rhode Island
Gas Safety and Damage
Prevention Programs**

Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers



Pipeline Safety & Damage Prevention Programs

Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

Linda George, Esq., Administrator



Program Personnel

Pipeline Safety

- Robert Bailey – Program Manager
- Ken McCarthy – Inspector 2
- Collin Slade – Inspector 1
- Kwabena ‘Albert’ Kyei-Poakwa – Inspector 1
- Anthony Argillander – Inspector 1
- Kristen Masse – Administrative Support

Damage Prevention

- Hakeem Ottun – Engineering Specialist 2

Legal Support

- William Lueker, Esq.



Intrastate Pipeline Facilities Under DPUC Safety Jurisdiction

As of December 31, 2020

- Transmission miles 3
- Distribution miles 3,204
- Number of Services 193,293
- LNG facilities 3 (one operator)
- LPG facilities 42 (17 operators)



Distribution Main Materials

• Plastic	1,615 miles
• Protected Steel	583
• Cast Iron	668
• Unprotected Steel	325
• Ductile Iron	13

Replacement goals remain at 70 miles per year for cast iron, ductile iron, and unprotected steel.



Inspections

- 130 Inspection Person-Days in 2020.
- One qualified inspector.
- 181 follow-up inspections on the same day as other inspection types.



Enforcement Statistics

2017 to present

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Civil Penalties Issued	80	49	89	71
Civil Penalties Collected	\$40,250	\$26,900	\$69,450	\$46,500
Civil Penalties Pending	0	0	0	22



Top Enforcement Issues 2018 to present

- 192.605(a) Failure to follow procedures:
Regulator vent under/within 18” of a window
- 192.807 (a) (1-4) and (b) Recordkeeping
Operator Qualification records
- 192.353(a) Protection from vehicular damage
Missing bollards



Damage Prevention Program

Year	Total Locate Requests	Total Damages	Total Damages per 1,000 Requests	Gas Damages	Gas Damages per 1000 Requests	Total Penalties Collected
2017	53,550	133	2.48	116	2.16	\$40,250
2018	43,022	156	3.6	101	2.6	\$26,900
2019	43,444	162	3.7	102	2.3	\$69,450
2020	41,123	121	2.9	105	2.55	\$46,500



Incidents

**There were no incidents reported
in 2019 or 2020.**



Program Highlights

2018 to the Present

- Hired 1 new Program Manager, 1 new Pipeline Safety Inspector 2, and three new Pipeline Safety Inspector 1s.
- Retained Private consultant to assist with yearly Audits, construction inspections, and training.
- In the process of digitizing all pipeline records.
- Continuing the process of certifying all pipeline inspectors through PHMSA class enrollments.



2021 & 2022 Program Goals

- Fully certify Pipeline Inspector 2
- Certify three new Pipeline Inspector 1s
- Meet goal of 85 Inspector days for each of the inspectors
- Increase Federal Evaluation score



That's All Folks!

